

Piggott National Guard Armory

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Piggott National Guard Armory

Other Name/Site Number: CY0065

**2. Location**

Street & Number: 775 E. Main St.

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Piggott

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Clay Code: AR021 Zip Code: 72225

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Piggott National Guard Amory

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing    Noncontributing

1               buildings  
                 sites  
1            1 structures  
                 objects  
2            1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria.    See continuation sheet.

      4/3/06  
Signature of certifying official      Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.    See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official      Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Piggott National Guard Amory

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### 5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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### 6. Function or Use

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Historic: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Plain/Traditional

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal and Asphalt  
walls Brick other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

#### SUMMARY:

The Piggott Armory at 775 E. Main St. is a one-story, concrete-block structure sheathed in brick veneer and constructed in 1956 in the Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson firm's "type 'Z-Z' one unit" plan. The property also contains a contributing Vehicle Storage Shed built in 1951 and a metal storage shed that was built around 1980, which does not contribute to the property's historic significance.

#### ELABORATION:

The Piggott Armory at 775 E. Main St. is a one-story, concrete-block structure sheathed in brick veneer and constructed in

1956. The property also contains a contributing Vehicle Storage Shed built in 1951 and a metal storage shed that was built around 1980, which does not contribute to the property's historic significance.

The 1956 Piggott Armory is a one-story, cinder-block building sheathed in brick veneer and reflecting the Plain\Traditional style of architecture. The large gable roof of the central room uses a steel support structure and includes two-over-two, steel-framed, clerestory, awning windows on each side. The floor plan is of a standard design and similar to that of most of the Arkansas Army National Guard armories built during the post-World War II era.

The armory's layout consists of a large central room with a gable roof surrounded on three sides by one-story, flat-roofed areas that hold office space, restrooms, storage, kitchens and similar support functions. The support areas are fenestrated by six-over-six, steel-framed hopper units and six-over-six-over-twelve hopper units. The Piggott armory's large overhead door has been replaced with a modern unit. The Vehicle Storage Shed, originally a free-standing unit, has been connected to the south side of the armory with a narrow corridor.

The Piggott Vehicle Storage Shed is a one-story brick structure with a gable roof and was constructed in 1951. Local informants report that the structure served as the armory until the larger building was completed in 1956. It has an open floor plan and is fenestrated with six-over-six, steel-framed, clerestory hopper units. Large overhead doors are located at the center of the west gable end and at the center of the north side. The original overhead doors have been replaced with modern units and the shed is connected to the south side of the armory with a narrow corridor. The building contributes to the nomination.

A large, gable-roofed metal storage shed sits to the south of the Vehicle Storage Shed. Built in the 1980s, the structure does not contribute to the nomination.

The Piggott Armory retains excellent integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association. The only significant alteration to the armory and vehicle storage shed is the replacement of their original overhead doors. The small hyphen connecting the two buildings, constructed at an unknown date, does not affect the integrity of either building.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: Military, Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1951-1956

Significant Dates: 1956

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Wittenberg, Delony and Davidson, architect/Cox Lumber Co., builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

#### SUMMARY:

The Piggott Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** by virtue of its status as a great example of the armories of its era, which featured open floor plans, steel-framed roofs and concrete-block walls, reflecting the Guard's need for larger facilities during the 1950s.

#### ELABORATION:

##### National Guard

The modern National Guard is a well-trained reserve fighting force controlled by states and equipped by the federal government. They can be called into service by either federal or state governments to assist in everything from disaster relief to full-fledged war. This requires a presidential order or a declaration of a state of emergency by their state's governor. When Guard members are not mobilized, they are required to report for training sessions "one weekend a month, two weeks a year."

Though the National Guard as it exists today has been around for about a century, the idea of the citizen-soldier is much older. The concept originated in the Germanic regions of Europe during the Middle Ages, where the king reserved the right to call up a "home guard" consisting of all free males. The British began forming a similar organization of defense before the Norman invasion. The system, which was based on land ownership and required training for soldiers who were not on active duty, has been described by some historians as similar to our current National Guard.

As England began to gain territory in North America, colonists formed militias to protect themselves from invasion on the remote continent. Massachusetts established the first American militia in 1643, and Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, and South Carolina soon followed suit. At first they fought alone against occasional groups of hostile Indians, but later it was alongside British regulars against competing colonial powers.

As colonists became increasingly discontent with their colonial rule, American militias began to face off against their former British allies. The first of these conflicts was the famous showdown at Concord's North Bridge. Though problems with disorganization and desertion plagued these militia units, the citizen-soldier proved an integral part in the American victory and their transition to an independent nation. George Washington recognized the failures and successes of the system: "[The country needs] a well organized Militia; upon a Plan that will pervade all the States, and introduce similarity in their Establishment, Maneuvers, Exercises and Arms."

In 1792 Congress passed the Calling Forth and Militia Acts, which clarified the constitution's positions concerning militias. The legislation gave the president power to call the state militia into federal service, placed an Adjutant General in charge of each state militia, and required all able-bodied men between 18 and 45 to enroll. Together, these acts would guide policy for the next 111 years.

Despite the government's early efforts to organize the militia, the years leading up to the Civil War proved turbulent for America's citizen-soldiers. Successes, like the suppression of a Pennsylvania mob in the Whiskey Rebellion and the victory at the Battle of New Orleans, were overshadowed by numerous blunders. The near-failure in the War of 1812 was due in large part to the incompetence and insubordination of the participating state militias. Furthermore, membership lull as states began to drop mandatory service requirements and growing economic wealth allowed some Americans to buy their way out of service.

During this same period, in 1803, the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase, which included the territory that is now Arkansas. As American settlement of the area increased, so did the demand for military protection. In 1806 Arkansas Post raised the first militia in the state, which included one company of infantry and another of light cavalry.

These units served more to give the appearance of law and order than to actually enforce it; there is little evidence of militia action until after Arkansas became a territory in 1819.

Early Arkansas militias were mainly concerned about the threat posed by neighboring Indians. In the minds of Arkansans, this threat gradually increased during the first decades of the nineteenth century as more and more Indians were removed to "Indian Territory," just to the state's west. This perceived danger led territorial governor George Izard to begin vigorously training the militia after his appointment in 1825. He believed the territory must "place the Militia in a condition to afford immediate protection to our settlements, should any disorder attend the passage of these people." The governor's fears were confirmed in 1828 when the militia was forced to enforce peace between Miller County settlers, and Shawnee and Delaware Indians.

The Mexican War was the first major conflict that involved Arkansas militiamen, though they joined the fight on a volunteer basis. Several companies of cavalry and infantry accepted the call to duty, and served in Mexico and on the western American frontier. United States Representative Archibald Yell and prominent Little Rock lawyer Albert Pike were among the more notable volunteers. Like the rest of the nation, though, interest in militia service waned in Arkansas after the conflict.

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It was the dark times of the Civil War that brought a resurgence in militia activity. President Lincoln called state militias to federal service in 1861, but the order was restricted by a 90 day limit. Early on, militias defended their home states, but as the war continued, most of their members were called up to serve on the federal level. In the South the militias were populated by the nation's first conscription law, which required all males from 18-35 to serve.

The United States government implemented sweeping changes on the nation's military structure during Reconstruction. Southern states were not allowed to organize militias unless they were controlled by Republican governments. It was not until 1876 that these states were given back full rights to run their military affairs. Black militias began to appear, but were most prevalent in the North since the idea of armed African-Americans was still very unsettling to southerners.

Labor disputes dominated the militia's efforts at the end of the nineteenth century. Governors were often forced to request military assistance to keep order during a period of numerous union-backed labor strikes. Also during this period, modern reforms began to take hold. Former Confederate Major General Dabney H. Maury founded the National Guard Association (NGA) in 1878, aiming to formalize and standardize militia policy and structure. As this group's title indicates, many states, excepting the South, began referring to their citizen-soldiers as the "National Guard" by the end of the century.

The imperfections of the century-old Militia Act finally showed through during the Spanish-American War. The surprise explosion of the *U.S.S. Maine* pushed an unprepared American military to war. Without the ability to call up militia units for extended federal service, President McKinley relied on volunteers in an attempt to build a formidable and properly-trained force. Though the campaign turned out to be a success, change in militia organization was certain.

That change came in the form of the Dick Act of 1903. Written by Charles W. F. Dick, who had strong ties with the NGA, the legislation sought to "promote the efficiency of the militia" and make it an "official junior partner of the Regular Army." It offered federal support for a militia's training, equipment, and pay. It also encouraged a closer relationship between the militia and Regular Army through organization and training. Together with the National Defense Act of 1916, which made further improvements to the nation's military structure, the Dick Act made the National Guard an effective part of the American armed forces.

The Civil War also brought a revival in militia activity in Arkansas. On February 5, 1861, several companies of Arkansas volunteers gathered and seized the Little Rock Arsenal from Captain James Totten's Federal troops. This type of activity repeated itself in Arkansas and all across the South as militia companies often took control of Union arsenals, customs houses, forts, and mints.

In accordance with Reconstruction policy, Arkansas was required to disband their militia organizations by 1867. It wasn't until the election of Governor Clayton Powell in 1868 that the state regained its military rights. With a militia composed largely of freed African-Americans, the loyal Republican administration suppressed the actions of the Ku Klux

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Klan through martial law until 1869.

One of the most notable uses of the post-war Arkansas militia was an ideological and political conflict known as the "Brooks-Baxter War." As the gubernatorial elections of 1872 approached, Arkansans were split between Radical Republican Elisha Baxter and Liberal Republican Joseph Brooks. Baxter was declared the winner, but suspecting fraud, Brooks filed an immediate challenge. A year after the initial results were handed down, the election was overturned. Brooks called for militia support to evict Baxter from the statehouse, and Baxter called for support to defend the statehouse from Brooks. Fortunately, large-scale violence was avoided when President U.S. Grant recognized Baxter as the rightful governor.

While militias across the nation were in decline during the end of the nineteenth century, the Arkansas militia was nearly abolished altogether. A conflict in Scott County, Arkansas, exacerbated a schism that had been growing between Governor William Miller and the state legislature. The legislature, who charged that Governor Miller was using the militia in Scott County to impose Reconstructionist tactics, voted to abolish the office of Adjutant General and cut funding for the state militia. Companies that survived, like the McCarthy Light Guards, did so only through private funding.

Such policies left Arkansas militias no more prepared for the Spanish-American War than those in other parts of the country. Nevertheless, Arkansas managed to muster two regiments from existing State Guard troops. Though these soldiers never saw action, 54 of them died from accidents and disease while training in Puerto Rico.

The problems that Arkansans faced during the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were remedied in part by the Dick Act. The state militia was officially organized into the Arkansas National Guard, and any funding problems previously faced were alleviated by federal aid. Their first assignment under the new organization was to patrol the Mexican border in 1916.

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War in Europe resulted in a large increase in National Guard numbers across the nation. This movement stemmed from the Selective Service Act of 1917, which provided for the creation of draft units composed of randomly selected draftees. Many draft-eligible Americans decided it would be better to join the Guard and serve with people from their region, some of whom they knew. Thus National Guard enrollment expanded from 177,000 before the draft began to 377,000 just four months later. Because the demand was so high for soldiers in Europe, State Guards were populated by those too old or physically unfit to join the Regular Army.

Though the American economy hit bottom as the nation transitioned from the 1920s to 1930s, enrollment in the National Guard increased. In fact, so many people sought employment with the Guard that many potential soldiers were put on a waiting list. Most deployments during this period were for civil unrest, labor disputes, or natural disasters. By the mid-1930s, though, Hitler was expanding his ideology and influence in Europe, and National Guard troops began training for war.

On August 27, 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a presidential order that called-up the National Guard to federal service. This move substantially increased the American force, adding over 200,000 troops composed of 22 cavalry and infantry units. Accordingly, the Guard was already deployed when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and they were ready for deployment in both the European and Pacific theatres.

After Hitler was finally defeated in 1945, the country entered an uncertain period of Cold War. With the Soviet Union emerging as America's opposing power, the National Guard was trained to fight in a "World War III scenario." This, along with inadequate funding, left the Guard ill-prepared for the unique wars in East Asia.

National Guard units totaling 138,600 soldiers were deployed after the 1950 invasion of South Korea by North Korea. Many of those troops arrived in South Korea in January 1951 while others filled vacant military roles in Europe and the United States. The National Guard saw only limited action in Vietnam; only about 12,000 guardsmen were called up for 24-month terms in 1968.

For those National Guard members who remained in the United States during the wars in East Asia, much of their duty concerned violence surrounding the Civil Rights movement. Protests and integrations kept the home units busy as old racism met progressive ideology. These controversial responsibilities, compounded by participation in increasingly unpopular wars, led to a period of disrespect by many Americans for the Guard.

The National Guard, devastated by the wars in East Asia, was revamped under President Ronald Reagan. His huge

defense budgets included provisions for modern equipment and extensive training. Under Reagan, Guardsmen were able to participate in major overseas exercises with other countries' military forces.

In September 1917 Arkansas National Guard units reported to Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, Louisiana. After eleven months of training, the 110 officers and 6,317 enlisted men sailed for Europe where they would see several months of combat action. Those who returned from "The Great War" were discharged at Arkansas' Camp Pike in January and February of 1919.

The interwar years provided Arkansas Guardsmen with extensive domestic experience. The flood of 1927 was one of the worst disasters in the history of the Delta region, displacing many families and ruining their livelihoods. By giving far-reaching assistance to the region's citizens, the Arkansas Guard took on an increased role in disaster relief. Civil unrest was a more general problem of the 1920s and 1930s; during that period the Guard was called out more than 25 times.

With the threat of World War II on the horizon, Arkansas troops were again called to federal service. After their call on December 7, 1941, they saw service in mainland Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, North Africa, and throughout Europe. The Arkansans fought honorably and successfully, though much of their training and battle armament was last used in World War I.

Arkansas National Guardsmen were among those called to active duty after the South Korean invasion. Shortly after the incursion, the 154<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, the 936<sup>th</sup> FA Battalion, the 937<sup>th</sup> FA Battalion, and the 217<sup>th</sup> Medical Company were sent to stop the Communist expansion. The first unit to arrive, the 936<sup>th</sup>, saw their first combat action on March 29, 1951, exchanging more than 50,000 rounds with their North Korean adversaries. Arkansans contributed to the war effort in varying capacities, from ground combat to medical air evacuation.

Probably the most famous incident exclusively involving Arkansas Guardsmen occurred at Central High School in Little Rock. When federal courts ruled in 1954 that all American schools must integrate, the Little Rock School Board formulated a plan to begin the process in 1957. As the deadline approached, segregationists put pressure on governor Orval Faubus to block Arkansas school integration. Bowing to pro-segregation pressure, Faubus called the National Guard to block African-American students from entering the school for three weeks. When he recalled the soldiers, a period of violence ensued. Order was not restored until President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalized the Guard and used them to escort the nine students into Central High. The soldiers remained there for seven and a half months before the President felt it was safe for them to leave.

More recently the Arkansas National Guard has seen overseas action in the Middle East. During the First Gulf War, 13 units were called up from Arkansas and deployed from Europe to Southwest Asia. Seventeen units are now serving (as of July 2005) in the Iraq War. The Arkansas Army National Guard is currently composed of 102 units in 74 communities.

## **Armories**

Armories have always been a central part of military activity. Generally they can be described as storage facilities for weapons and ammunition, but in the last several decades they have been built to accommodate National Guard training exercises. The construction and expansion of armory facilities traces the organization and purpose of the Guard.

Early armories were typically built in urban areas where heavy industrialization had taken root. This meant that the majority of the structures were concentrated in the northeast, while rural armories were rare. In addition to their use as a weapons storage facility, they were used as a point of defense until the 1830s.

The Federal Arsenal Program introduced two types of armories before the Civil War: "arsenals" and "armories." The cost and construction of an arsenal was shared between the federal and state governments, and they were used to build and store weapons and ammunition. In the decades leading up to the Civil War, armories differed from arsenals mainly because they were rented spaces. Typical armories were located in hotels, taverns, or organizational halls; they provided shelter for the soldiers, but drill was always conducted outside.

Pre-Civil War armories were large, formidable structures. Most were constructed with thick, load-bearing masonry walls and large doors and windows. Though most armories were architecturally nothing out of the ordinary, some were beautiful fortress-like buildings in the Greek, Romanesque, and Italianate architectural styles. Today, the Jackson, Michigan, Armory, constructed in 1850 and the Jericho, Vermont, Armory, built in 1860, are the only remaining pre-Civil



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**War armories.**

Very few armories were built during the Civil War because the federal government lacked the control and funding to undertake such projects. After the war, though, labor and social unrest spurred many state legislatures to increase the funding of their militias. Incidents like the Draft Riots of 1863, the Paris Commune of 1871, and the Railroad Strike of 1877—culminating with the Haymarket Affair of 1886—convinced the legislatures of the need for sufficiently equipped and housed militias. New arsenals, typically designed by local architects paid by the state Guard, gave an increased number of state militiamen places where they could go to be effectively organized and trained.

The architectural style of armories was also modified for this post-Civil War period. A castellated design, which appeared in rare cases before the War, exploded in popularity by 1880. It combined elements of Italianate, Medieval Gothic, Romanesque, and Second Empire styles to create an attractive and impressive structure. Like a medieval castle, the armories in this style would have battlements, crenellations, towers, and turrets. Entries into the building's thick walls were constructed of heavy wood and a protecting portcullis. The interiors could be describes as more refined, providing space for organization, training, and even socializing.

Much of the armory construction continued to occur in urban areas. The few built in the poor post-war South were often cheaply constructed, wood frame structures, contrasting sharply with the impressive masonry structures of the Northeast. Indeed, formal National Guard armories were still very rare across Arkansas. Construction of much-needed armories farther west was delayed by the ongoing efforts of territories to attain statehood. Forty-six armories, built from 1865-1910, currently exist, most of them in the Northeastern states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

Armories built after 1910 reflected America's decreasing concern about mob violence and civil war. Increasingly, the once solemn halls of the armories served to accommodate social functions and community events. The focus of design changed, too. Simplicity and functionality replaced grandeur and fortification. This trend was evidenced by the building boom in the final years of World War I: the drill hall came to overshadow the minimized administrative wing, and little or no ornamentation was used on either structure. Some of the later designs of the 1920s and 1930s featured the more decorative styles of Art Deco and Art Moderne.

Though the majority of this construction continued to occur in the Northeast, it began to spread south and west by 1930. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal brought WPA and PWA armories to the poorer southern states in the trans-Mississippi West. When the Arkansas National Guard reorganized in 1926, most armory space was rented, and there were no state-owned armories. But by 1940, 25 armories had been built across the state: from Texarkana to Jonesboro and from Helena to Mena. Over an eight-year period beginning in 1934, over half of the 842 existing armories across the country were remodeled, and 400 new ones were built. The trend toward simplicity continued as architects utilized Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and Art Deco styling for the structures.

The armory further enlarged its role in the community during the New Deal period. Some had stages that suited them for dance venues, while others had bleachers and basketball goals to facilitate the local high school team. Most armories were used more for social functions than military ones.

New Deal construction structurally prepared the National Guard for World War II. It wasn't until the Cold War Era that the country felt the need for an increased number of armories. In response the federal government passed the National Defense Facilities Act of 1950, which appropriated money for renovation and erection of Reserve Armed Forces facilities. Though the Korean War delayed major construction at first, by 1954 states were asking for money. Guidelines for the floor plan were as follows:

- \* Minimum armory size: 11,800 square feet; maximum of 13,000 square feet
- \* Drill hall within the armory: 5,500 square feet
- \* Classrooms within the armory: 800-1,340 square feet
- \* Unit supply storage within the armory: 770-1,200 square feet
- \* Administrative offices within the armory: 288-800 square feet
- \* Commanding Officer, orderlies, advisor offices within armory: 200 square feet each
- \* Locker room within armory: 600-1,200 square feet
- \* Toilets and showers within armory: 500-700 square feet

## Piggott National Guard Armory

Name of Property

## Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

- \* Women's public restroom within armory: 240 square feet
- \* Library or day room within armory: 200-400 square feet
- \* Armory kitchen: 160-200 square feet
- \* Armory maintenance and custodian facility within armory: 200 square feet
- \* Armory boiler room: 600 square feet
- \* Outdoor rifle range: 1,880 square feet

Arkansas was one of the recipients of the federal aid. In 1952 Brigadier General John B. Morris, Jr. estimated that Arkansas's armory needs totaled \$3,705,000. The federal government would give \$2,778,750 while the State of Arkansas was to contribute \$926,250. When the money was appropriated, construction soon began.

Many of the Arkansas armories were designed by the architectural firm Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson. The design was a "type 'Z-Z' one unit" plan. Generally, the office space, restrooms, storage, and kitchens were to be built one-story high, with concrete block and brick veneer and a flat roof. The drill hall was to be built with a two-story high steel frame, and topped by a gable roof with several awning windows on each side. The armories from this era are most prevalent across the state today.

### **Piggott National Guard Armory**

Prior to the construction of the Piggott Army National Guard Armory in 1956, Battery C of the 445<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion was based in a rented armory. Captain Iverson C. Cameron of the 445<sup>th</sup> wrote to Guard officials in Little Rock on June 17, 1949, that "the state does have a Deed to a lot here in Piggott [on] which it expected that bldgs. will be constructed on, for use of the Arkansas National Guard." The lot was 150 by 200 feet and valued at about \$1,000, according to Cameron.

On December 30, 1955, the *Piggott Banner* published a letter from U.S. Congressman E.C. Gaithings saying that "the Armed Services Committee approved the Piggott armory project with federal funds estimated in the neighborhood of \$37,500." In the same issue, the *Banner* made the editorial note that "This means to get the armory, Piggott will have to raise the amount of \$12,500 to \$14,000 to construct the type of building designed." That goal was met, the newspaper reported on January 13, 1956, after the city board voted to allocate money from City Light and Water Fund revenues to build the new armory for Battery C, 709<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. "The local National Guard Unit ... will use the present building [the Piggott Vehicle Storage Shed] as a storage building for equipment and the new armory will be a drill hall and for other similar purposes," according to the *Banner* article. (The Piggott armory housed the firing unit of Battery C, an eight-inch howitzer unit. The battery's headquarters unit, based in Paragould, also would get a new arsenal in 1956; the battery's service unit was based in Wynne.)

The Wittenberg, Delony and Davidson architectural firm designed the Piggott Armory as one of its "type 'Z-Z' one unit" plans. The *Piggott Banner* noted on January 27 that "the military department already has adopted plans and specifications for the steel and concrete structure similar to the new armory recently completed in Brinkley." Cox Lumber Co. made the low bid for the project at \$40,688; the heating and plumbing subcontractor was Clemson Brothers of Wynne. The structure was to be 88 feet by 96 feet with a 70 foot by 80 foot auditorium. Construction was either underway or completed by August 10, when the *Banner* reported that an 81,000-pound, 155-mm self-propelled gun had been delivered via flatcar and was being moved to the Piggott Vehicle Storage Shed.

The Piggott National Guard Armory also has housed elements of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, 218<sup>th</sup> Medical Ambulance Company, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 875<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion.

On June 28, 2005, it was announced that five Arkansas National Guard armories would be closed, including the one at Piggott, as part of a major restructuring of the Guard. Officials indicated that the closed armories would be given to the cities in which they are located for future use as municipal facilities. Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee formally turned the deed to the facility over to Piggott officials on Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

The Piggott Vehicle Storage Shed, originally constructed to serve as an armory, is typical of the small, gable-roofed brick buildings constructed in the 1940s and early 1950s for the Guard while the Piggott Armory reflects later standardized plans that featured open floor plans, steel-framed roofs and concrete block walls. This functional design is typical of Guard armories built during a period when larger facilities were needed. As good examples of their building types, including the Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson firm's "type 'Z-Z' one unit" plan, both are eligible for National Register recognition under Criterion C.

The Piggott National Guard Armory, with its associated vehicle storage shed, still maintains its historic connections with Arkansas's military history after a half century of service. It stands today as a living memorial to the men and women who have served in the Arkansas National Guard.

The Piggott Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** by virtue of its status as a great example of the armories of its era, which featured open floor plans, steel-framed roofs and concrete-block walls, reflecting the Guard's need for larger facilities during the 1950s.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, "Five Guard armories in Delta to shut in Army restructuring," Wednesday, June 29, 2005, p. 1A; "5 towns receive deeds to closed armories," Wednesday, March 15, 2006, p. 3B.

Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc. and Historical and Architectural Research, LLC. *Army National Guard: Draft Final Historic Context Study, December 2004*. Kansas City, MO: Burns & McDonnell and Historical and Architectural Research, December 2004.

URS Group, Inc. *Arkansas Army National Guard Intensive Historic Research and Context*. Gaithersburg, MD: URS Group, February 2005.

URS Corporation, Inc. *Historic Structures Reconnaissance Survey of 14 Arkansas National Guard Armory and Vehicle Storage Shed Facilities*. Little Rock, AR, March 2004.

Information supplied by Tammy Hilburn, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Information supplied by Anthony Rushing, Arkansas Army National Guard.

*Piggott Banner*, "Piggott Armory Receives Approval" and "Will Piggott Get Armory," December 30, 1955, p. 1; "Armory Funds are Assured," January 13, 1956, p. 1; "AMD to Ask Bids on New Armory," January 27, 1956, p. 1; "Contract Signed for New Armory," March 9, 1956, p. 1; "Unloading 'Big Bertha' Draws Big Crowd," August 10, 1956.

Piggott National Guard Amory

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other -- Specify Repository: Camp Robinson, Arkansas

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 752827 4029920 B  
C          D

Verbal Boundary Description:

Part of the North one-half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 20 North, Range 8 West.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all of the property associated with this resource that retains historic integrity.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

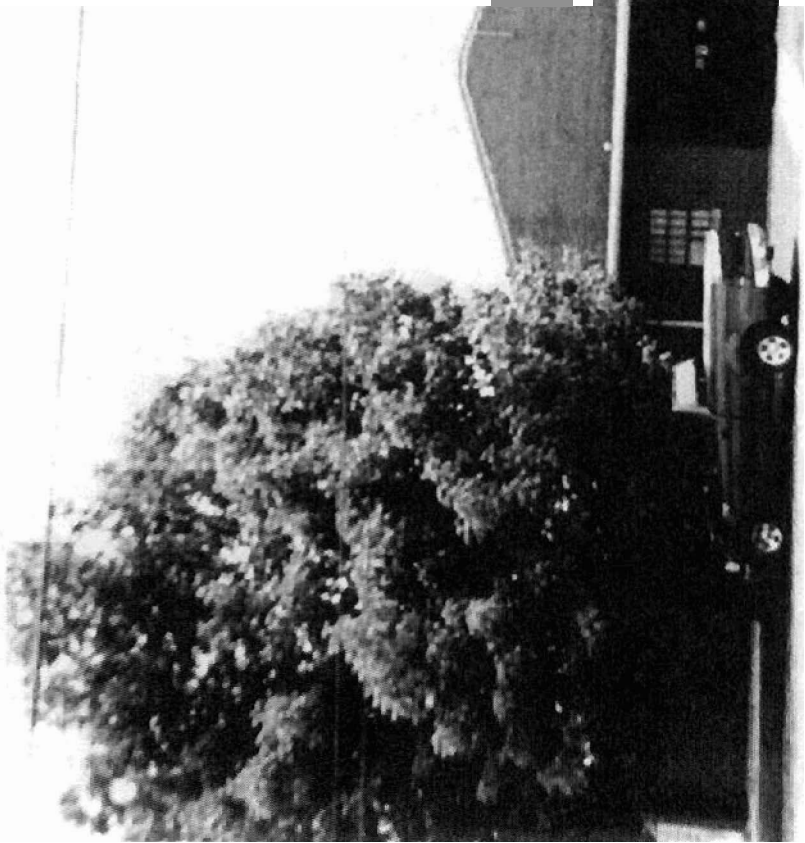
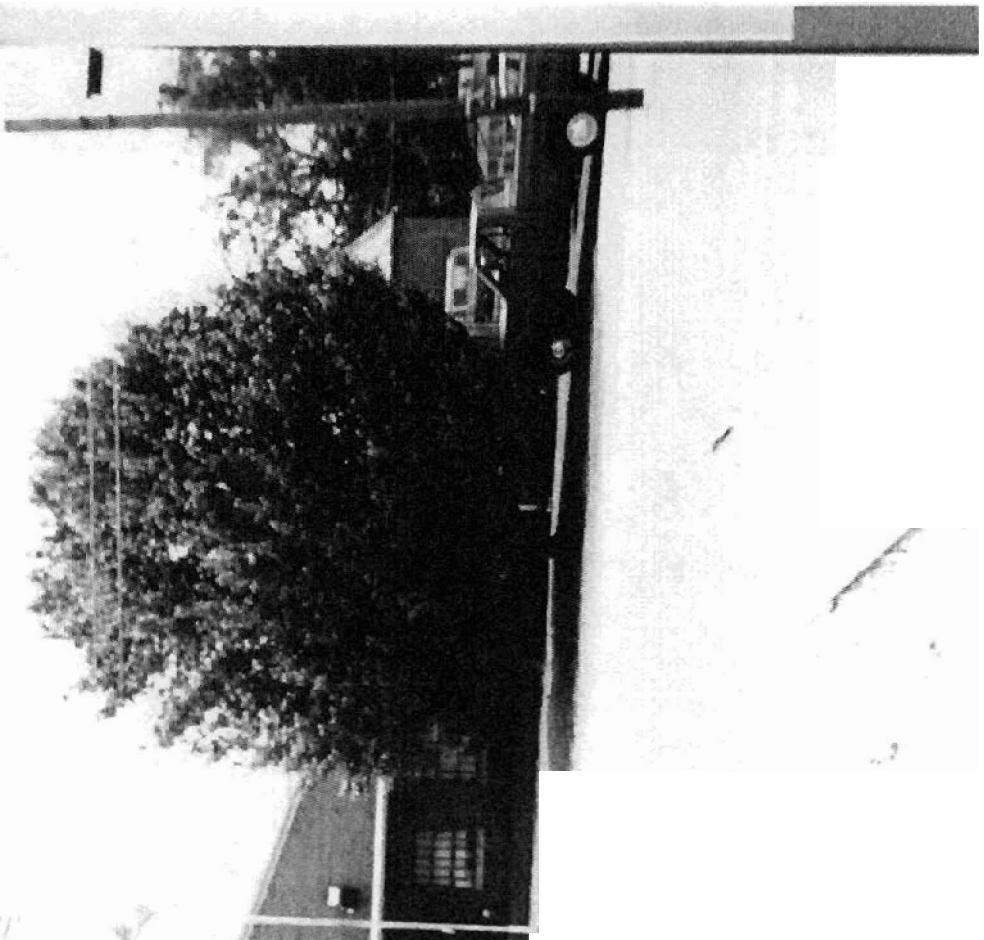
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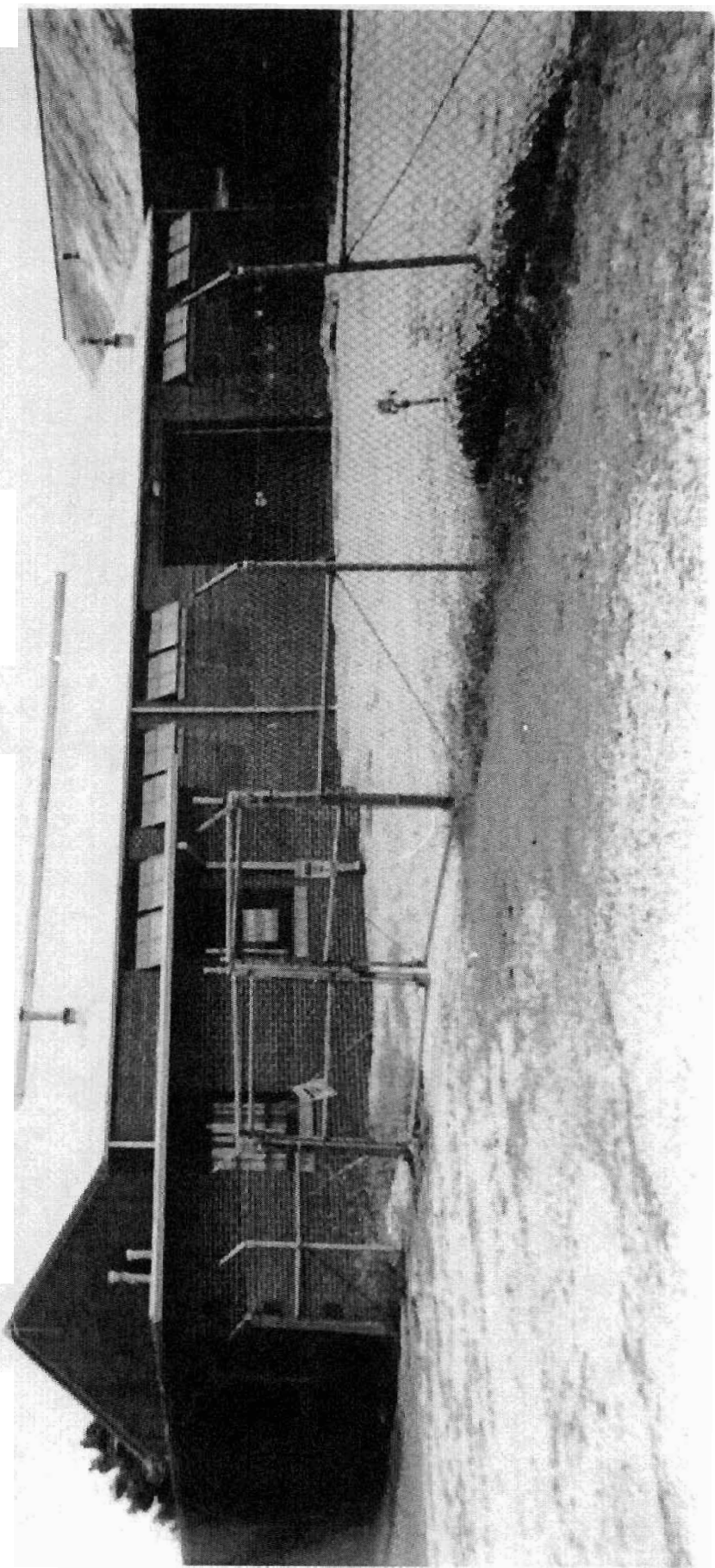
Name/Title: Clinton Pumphrey/Intern; Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

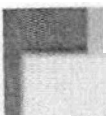
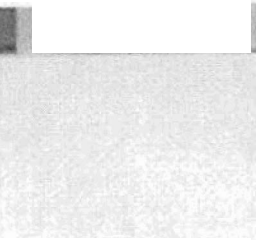
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 18, 2005

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone : (501) 324-9880

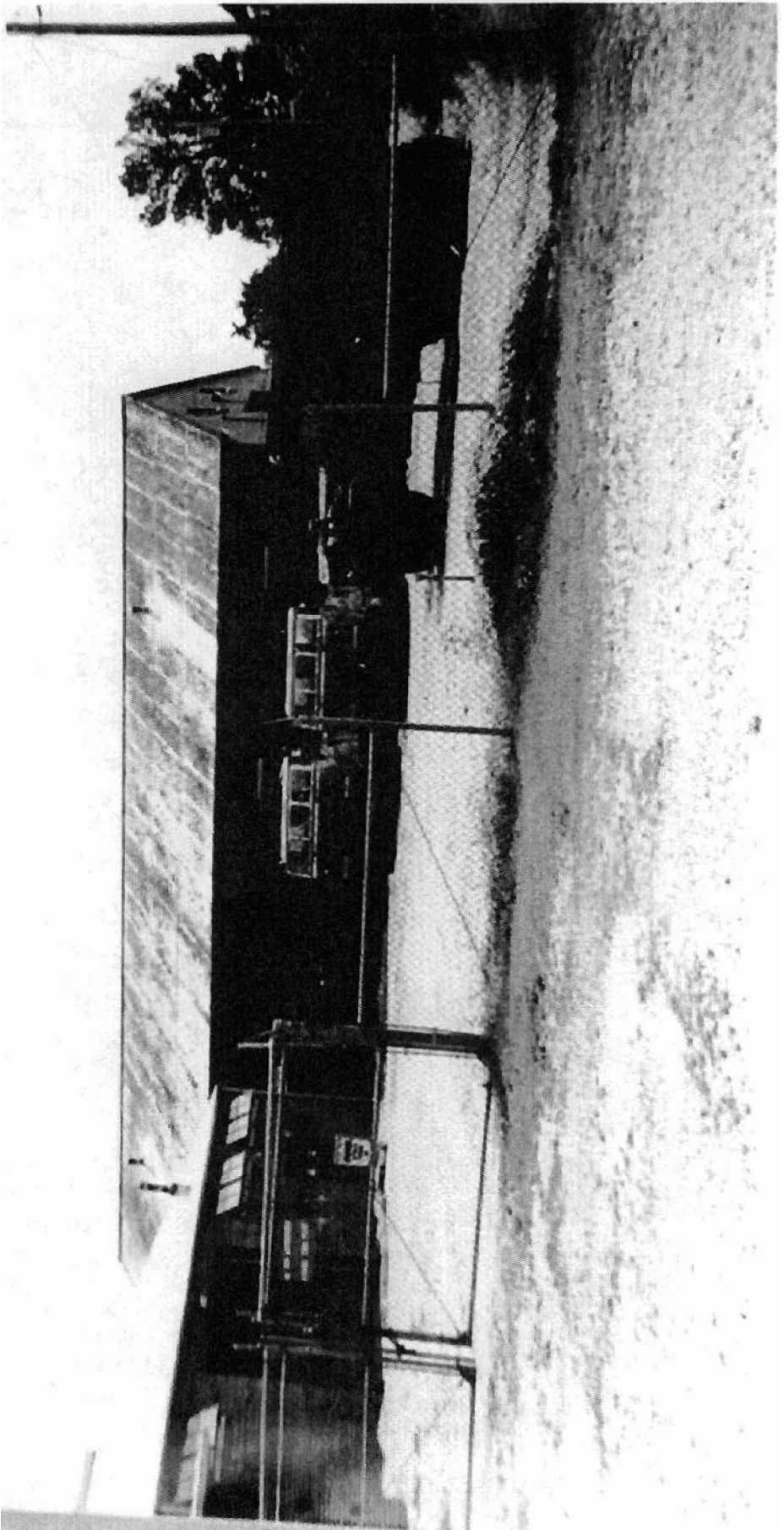
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



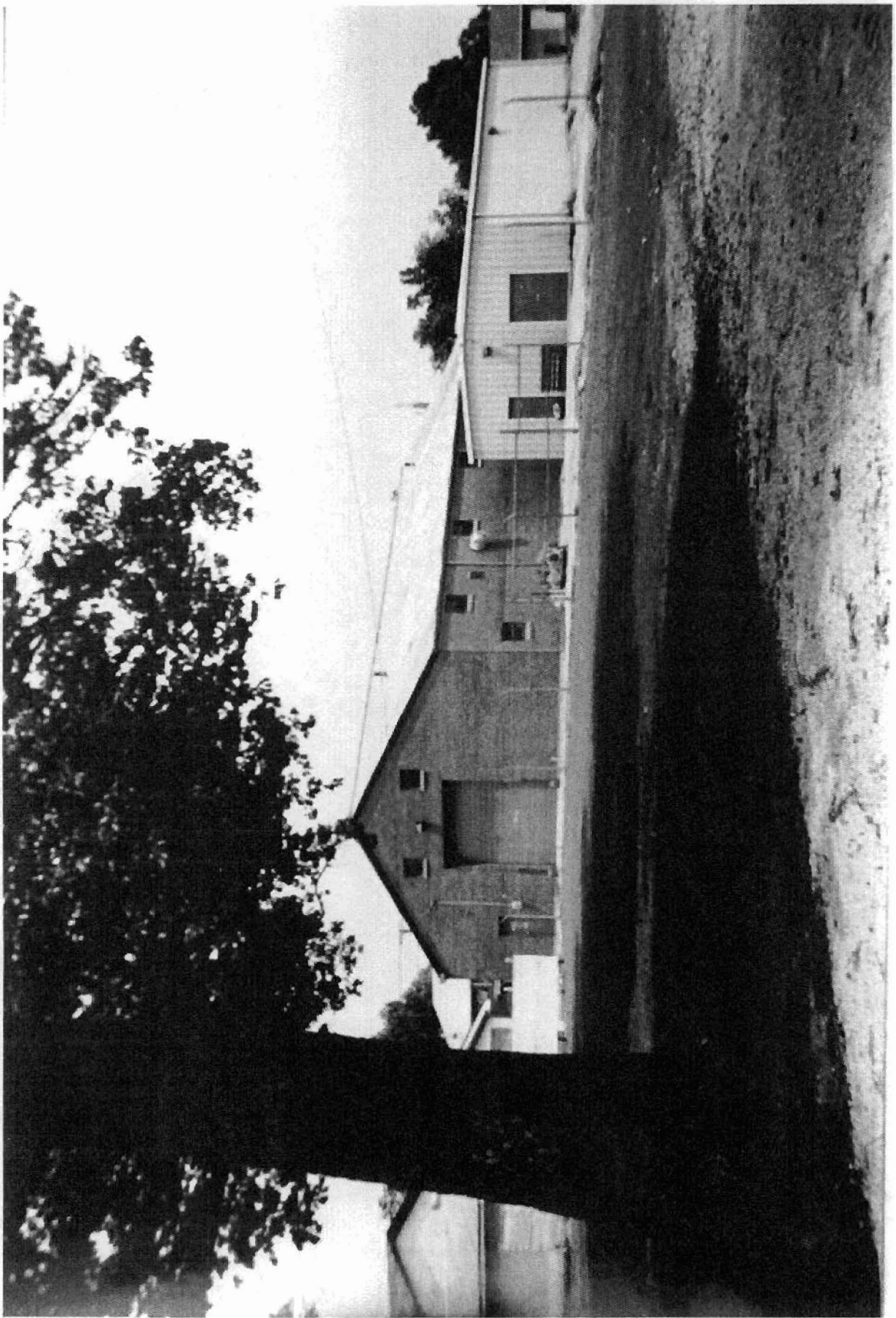












AL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 NATIONAL MAPS AND DIGITAL VECTORS 2000

1	2	3
4		5

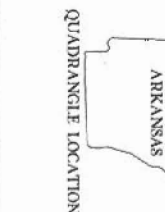
- Oglesville
- Glenoville
- Valley Ridge
- Pollard
- Campbell
- Rector
- Campbell

PIGGOTT, ARK.-MO.



PIGGOTT National Guard Armory  
 Piggott, Clay Co, AR  
 15/757 827 / 407 9920

VAL 10 FEET  
 TR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
 TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT  
 TO THE NEAREST FOOT  
 s multiply by .3048  
 multiply by 3.2808



ROAD LEGEND  
 Improved Road .....  
 Unimproved Road .....  
 Trail .....  
 Interstate Route .....  
 U.S. Route .....  
 State Route .....

